

Message Text

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46

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

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R 171325Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4921

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1295

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, KU

SUBJECT: 1976 LOS CONFERENCE

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REF: STATE 54588

1. ACTING DCM, WHO ALSO EMBASSY LOS AFFAIRS OFFICER, CALLED ON TAREQ AL-RAZOUQI, CHIEF, LEGAL DEPARTMENT, KUWAIT MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MARCH 16 TO DISCUSS POINTS RAISED REFTEL. RAZOUQI IS CURRENTLY SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL WITH LOS RESPONSIBILITIES. WE THOUGHT IT MORE PRODUCTIVE TO DISCUSS LOS ISSUES WITH HIM RATHER THAN UNDER-SECRETARY RASHED AL-RASHED. FOREIGN MINISTER PRESENTLY OUT OF KUWAIT, BUT RAZOUQI INDICATED THAT HE WILL BE BRIEFED NEXT WEEK ON NEW YORK LOS MEETING. WE LEFT AID MEMOIRE BASED ON REFTEL WITH RAZOUQI, AND IT VERY LIKELY THAT AID MEMOIRE WILL BE PART OF BRIEFING PACKAGE RAZOUQI PREPARED FOR MINISTER.

2. IN GENERAL, RAZOUQI SHARES ANALYSIS IN REFTEL THAT NEW YORK CONFERENCE IS CRITICAL IN TERMS OF TIMING AND THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE A MOOD FAVORING NEGOTIATION. HOWEVER, HE ANTICIPATES THAT AGREEMENT IS UNLIKELY UNTIL AUGUST IN GENEVA RATHER THAN THIS SPRING IN NEW YORK.

3. ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RAZOUQI SAID HE CONSIDERS INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY (ORGANIZATIONAL RULES) TO BE A MAJOR ISSUE. HE URGED THAT USG BE FLEXIBLE ON ISSUE, AND HE SAID LDCS FEEL IT IMPORTANT THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MAINTAIN SOME CONTROL OVER COMPANIES WITH TECHNOLOGY TO EXPLORE AND EXPLOIT DEEP SEABED. HE SAID LDCS THOUGHT USE OF JOINT VENTURES WITH COMPANY PARTICIPATION REPRESENTS REASONABLE COMPROMISE.

4. A SECOND IMPORTANT ISSUE TO GOK IS STRAITS ISSUE. HE SAID THAT GOK HAS BEEN CONSULTING WITH ARAB STATES AND WITH GULF STATES, INCLUDING IRAN. RAZOUQI SAID ISSUE IS INTIMATELY TIED IN WITH GULF SECURITY ISSUE. GULF STATES, HE SAID WERE DIVIDED; IRAQ, IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WERE FOR FREE PASSAGE. SMALLER STATES PREFER INNOCENT PASSAGE. GOK ITSELF HAS SHIFTED FROM FREE TO INNOCENT PASSAGE VIEW. THIS DUE NOT ONLY TO STRAITS OF HORMUZ CONSIDERATIONS BUT TO FEELING AMONG ARABS AFTER OCTOBER WAR THAT INNOCENT PASSAGE DOCTRINE WOULD ALLOW THEM

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GREATER CONTROL OVER BAB AL-MANDEB DURING TIME OF WAR WITH ISRAEL.

5. AFTER NOTING THAT GOK POSITION DIFFERED FROM THAT OF USG, RAZOUQI SAID OFF-HANDEDLY THAT HE ENVISAGED POSSIBLE COMPROMISE WHEREBY U.S. AND OTHER DCS WOULD GIVE IN TO LDC POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY ISSUE AND LDCS WOULD GIVE IN TO U.S. AND DCS ON STRAITS ISSUE. HE

THOUGHT THAT IF THIS COMPROMISE COULD BE WORKED OUT, PROSPECTS FOR REACHING LOS AGREEMENT IN 1976 WOULD BRIGHTEN CONSIDERABLY. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ONLY FOR HIMSELF, AND THESE VIEWS DID NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL GOK POSITION.

6. RAZOUKI SAID THAT GOK DEL TO NEW YORK LOS CONFERENCE WOULD BE LED BY KUWAITI AMBASSADOR TO UN BISHARA. KUWAIT AMBASSADOR TO UK SHAIKH SAUD AL-SABAH, WHO IS LEADING LOS AUTHORITY IN GOK, APPARENTLY WILL NOT BE ABLE PARTICIPATE. RAZOUQI HIMSELF WILL JOIN KUWAIT DEL ABOUT THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO END OF CONFERENCE. A/DCM, NOTING PAST COOPERATION AT LOS MEETINGS BETWEEN US AND KUWAITI DELS, URGED RAZOUQI AND OTHERS IN KUWAIT DEL TO DISCUSS LOS ISSUES WITH OUR REPS IN NEW YORK.
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